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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Robert Wouters Leyen of Gig Harbor, Washington, who passed away April 14, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Wouters Leyen, aka "Dr. Bob" and "Dr. Avalanche," was born September 29, 1951 in Nashville, Tennessee; Robert was the only son of the late Dr. Robert Fitzwater Leyen and Wilma Wouters Leyen; Robert graduated cum laude from Webb School of Knoxville in 1969, where he was All Mid-South Football and Basketball, as well as a key member of the school's champion track team; he earned his B.A. in Psychology in 1973 from Yale University; and

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WHEREAS, As defensive tackle, Robert was All-Ivy for two consecutive years; following graduation he was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys; when he was traded to the Detroit Lions, Robert chose to pursue a medical degree from The University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, graduating Alpha Omega Alpha in 1977; Robert completed an Internal Medicine Internship at the University of Alabama, Birmingham in 1978; he returned home to East Tennessee to practice Emergency Medicine; and he completed a General Surgery Residency at Duke University, as well as an Orthopedic Surgery Residency and a Sports Medicine Fellowship; and

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1           WHEREAS, Robert and Jennifer Albright were married March  
2           19, 1988 in Maryville, Tennessee; and

3           WHEREAS, He assisted teaching Musculoskeletal Anatomy at  
4           the University of Washington Medical School; during this past  
5           year he enjoyed working with America's veterans and soldiers at  
6           Madigan Army Medical Center, where he volunteered his time  
7           through the Red Cross; and

8           WHEREAS, Robert was a sportsman, an athlete, and a  
9           gentleman; following his football career, he played rugby for  
10          Old No. 7 RFC in Memphis and the Vulcans RFC in Birmingham; for  
11          30 years he was team physician and player with the Harvard Old  
12          Boys Business School Rugby Football Club; he actively competed  
13          in 3-Day Equestrian Eventing in Area VII and mentored many  
14          young riders; he was an avid duck hunter, belonging to the  
15          Washington Waterfowl Association, Wildcat Hollow Duck Club,  
16          Ducks Unlimited, and the Gig Harbor Sportsman Club; he enjoyed  
17          skiing throughout the world, many times with the Alpha Dog Ski  
18          Team; he was a National Outdoor Leadership School and Outward  
19          Bound graduate; and much of his free time was spent riding his  
20          exceptional horse "Large Marge" and training his Labrador  
21          retriever "B"; and

22          WHEREAS, The Leyens have been an active part of the Gig

1 Harbor United Methodist Church family for nearly 18 years;  
2 Robert's Bible readings and singing will be beautifully  
3 remembered; Robert was a serious student of Bible Study  
4 Fellowship for the past ten years and assisted with teaching  
5 the children; he was on the Board of Directors for Reach  
6 Ministries; Robert's awe of God's creation was integral to his  
7 life as an outdoorsman; and

8 WHEREAS, Robert will be dearly missed by his beloved wife,  
9 Jennifer; his loving daughter, Elizabeth; the Albright family;  
10 his cousins, Drs. Erich and Ben Wouters; and by countless close  
11 friends, colleagues, and patients; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
14 his family and friends, the passing of Dr. Robert Leyen; and be  
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the family of Dr. Robert Leyen as a symbol of our  
18 sympathy.